Dewan's reply.—I must thank Mr. Karayalar for the comprehensive survey he has made of the work of the Salt department and for the various suggestions he has offered. All these suggestions will receive the consideration of Government. No department is stationary. Every department must be moving in order to be progressive and suggestions will always be thankfully received. A gentleman that makes a special study of one department is often apt to ignore the interests of other departments and forget that in giving a final decision Government will have to consider a number of interests. Mr. Karayalar has criticised the Chief Engineer's proposals in regard to the discharge of flood waters. The Chief Engineer is an expert officer, and his opinion cannot be lightly brushed aside. He has also made certain sweeping recommendations such as the prohibition of wet cultivation within a half mile belt from the salt factory. What that prohibition would mean by way of loss to Government and the ryots will have to be considered. I mention these things just to show that the interests of one department cannot alone be considered.

(4) Excise & Customs.

23. Necessity for introducing the sweet toddy system.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that before the introduction of foreign sugar, it was the sago palm jaggery they were using in large quantities in the north and that on account of the present high cost of sugar there was considerable demand for jaggery, but the supply was getting very scanty, mainly owing to the rules prohibiting the making of sweety toddy without a license except in the taluks of the Padmanabhapuram Division and in Neyyattinkara and Shencottah. Though the license was free, the number of persons allowed to enjoy the privilege of tapping for sweet toddy was very small, and even that number was decreasing every year with the result that the jaggery industry was fast dying out. In the taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha and Minachil it was not common to tap the cocoanut and palmyra trees as there were many sago palms. The fear of Government that sweet toddy would be fermented and converted into toddy was baseless as the people used fermented toddy directly much more than sweet toddy indirectly. Further, there was the preventive staff of the Excise department for the detection and bringing to book of cases of unlawful distillation or consumption. In the Southern Division, the palmyra trees were useful to the people in many ways and they were free to make jaggery and fermented toddy, but the sago palm was useless, if it was not tapped for toddy, whether sweet or fermented, and on account of the prohibitive rate of tree-tax, only a limited number of these trees were used for tapping. The Member was of opinion that if jaggery making was made as attractive and profitable in the northern taluks as it was in the southern taluks, illicit distillation would altogether vanish, and that since sugar could be made out of sweet toddy and jaggery, it would go a great way to the economic and industrial development of the country. The Member therefore prayed that the restrictions against the manufacture of sweet toddy be removed and the conditions be made the same both in the northern and southern taluks of the State.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be examined.

24. Trade and certain suggestions for improving it.

Mr. K. M. Sivathanu Chettiyar (Member, Trading Classes, Kottar) observed with gratification that the State was progressing in every respect. But people generally forgot that progressive administration meant increased expenditure and, with the instances before them of the recent increase of process fees, value of copying paper and Anchal charges consequent on the reorganisation of the Judicial and Anchal departments, they feared that the Government proposed to impose additional taxation to meet the additional expenditure that had to be incurred to carry out the various reforms that were necessary to bring the State in line with the other progressive administrations of the world. The Member admitted the necessity for the reforms and would therefore suggest means for developing the revenue without taxing the people who were already in poor circumstances. In his opinion, the encouragement of the cultivation of tobacco in the State would be one way of increasing the revenue and at the same time improving the economic condition of the people. Tobacco to the

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